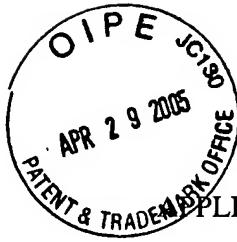


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Anthony T. Harcombe et al.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Date of Deposit: April 27, 2005Signature: Suzanne M. Britt
Suzanne M. Britt

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment prior to verification of the filing fee and issuance of the first Office action on the merits in the above application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.